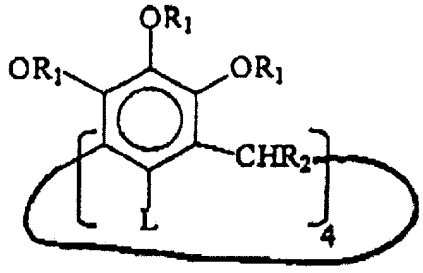
In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) Compounds of formula I



Formula I

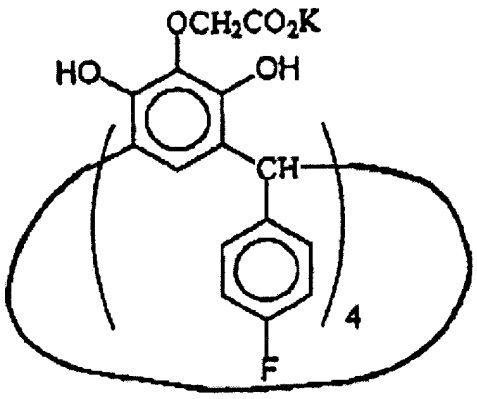
wherein the compounds are not fully alkylated, in that at least one R_1 group is H and the ~~remainder~~ remaining entire 11 or fewer of 11 R_1 groups are CH_2CO_2K; R_2 is

and L is H.

2. (Original) A compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 where 4 to 8 of R_1 are CH_2CO_2K, the remaining R_1 substituents are H, R_2 is

and L is H.

3. (Original) A compound of formula II



Formula II

4. (Currently amended) A mixture of compounds of formula I of claim 1, wherein the compounds ~~having~~ have different degrees of alkylation in that the number of R_1 groups that are CH_2CO_2K independently ranges from 1 to 11 for each compound in the mixture.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula I of claim 1 or formula II of claim 3, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

8. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a mixture of compounds according to claim 4, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

9. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 or a mixture as claimed in claim 4, together with an anti-viral agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I of claim 1, comprising the steps of

(i) reacting aldehyde with HCl and resorcinol;

(ii) reacting the product from step (i) with potassium carbonate and ethylbromoacetate in acetone; collecting reaction product and treating with aqueous HCl;

(iii) reacting product from step (ii) in ethanol with KOH.

12. (Previously amended) A method of treatment of viral infection comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula I of claim 1 or formula II of claim 3.

13. (Currently amended) A method of treatment of viral infection comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a mixture of compounds of formula I of claim 1 ~~having~~ wherein the compounds have different degrees of alkylation in that the number of R_1 groups that are CH_2CO_2K independently ranges from 1 to 11 for each compound in the mixture.

14. (Currently amended) A method of treatment of viral infection comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula I of claim 1 or formula II of claim 3 or a mixture of compounds of formula I ~~having~~ wherein the compounds have different degrees of alkylation in that the number of

R_1 groups that are CH_2CO_2K independently ranges from 1 to 11 for each compound in the mixture, together with an anti-viral agent.

15. (Currently amended) A method of treatment according to any one of claims ~~9~~ 12 to ~~11~~ 14 wherein the viral infection is HIV-1 infection.